

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A hERG channel-expressing cell population comprising cells capable of expressing a channel of which the hERG current as determined by patch clamping with a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system is 0.6 nA or more, wherein the proportionratio of said cells is 40% or more relative to the total number of hERG gene-transferred cells within said population.

Claim 2 (Original): The cell population according to claim 1, wherein the hERG gene has been transferred with a virus vector.


Claim 3 (Original): The cell population according to claim 2, wherein the virus vector is a retrovirus vector or a lentivirus vector.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The cell population according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein the average value of the hERG current in the total cell population ~~cells~~ is 0.3 nA or more.

Claim 5 (Original): A cell capable of expressing a hERG channel of which the hERG current as determined by patch clamping with a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system is 1.0 nA or more.

Claim 6 (Original): The cell according to claim 5, wherein the hERG gene has been transferred with a virus vector.

Claim 7 (Original): The cell according to claim 6, wherein the virus vector is a retrovirus vector or a lentivirus vector.

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Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing the cell population according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4 or the cell according to any one of claims 5 to 7~~claim 1, the method comprising which
~~comprises~~ expressing hERG channels ~~using via~~ a virus vector.

Claim 9 (Original): The method according to claim 8, wherein the virus vector is a retrovirus vector or a lentivirus vector.

Claim 10 (Canceled): ~~The method according to claim 8, wherein the virus vector is a retrovirus vector.~~

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method according to ~~claim 8~~any one of claims 8 to 10, the method further comprising the~~which comprises~~ a step of concentrating the virus vector by ultracentrifugation.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method of measuring hERG current inhibitory activity, the method comprising which~~comprises~~ using the cell population according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4 or the cell according to any one of claims 5 to 7~~claim 1.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 12, the method further comprising which~~comprises~~ using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A method of measuring hERG current inhibitory activity, the method comprising which~~comprises~~ using a cell population or a cell prepared by the method according to ~~any one of claims 8 9, or to 11~~claim 8.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 14, the method further comprising which~~comprises~~ using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method of screening ~~a compound for compounds, or a saltsalts~~ thereof for its hERG current altering effect, that alter or not alter hERG currents, the method comprising~~which comprises~~ using the cell population according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4 or the cell according to any one of claims 5 to 7~~claim 1.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 16, the method further comprising~~which comprises~~ using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A method of screening ~~a compound for compounds, or a saltsalts~~ thereof for its hERG current altering effect, that alter or not alter hERG currents, the method comprising~~which comprises~~ using a cell population or a cell prepared by the method according to ~~any one of claims 8 9, or to 11~~claim 8.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method according to claim 18, the method further comprising~~which comprises~~ using a fully automated high throughput patch clamp system.

Claim 20 (New): A method of measuring hERG current inhibitory activity, the method comprising using the cell population according to claim 5.

Claim 21 (New): A method of screening a compound or a salt thereof for its hERG current altering effect, the method comprising using the cell population according to claim 5.